

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, JM
SUBJECT: US/JAMAICA: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LUERS CALLED ON FONMIN PATTERSON MAY 2. PATTERSON REAFFIRMED HIS WASHINGTON VISIT STATEMENT TO SECRETARY VANCE THAT HE WANTED TO "SECURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US ON A FRIENDLY FOOTING". HE STRESSED THE INCREASED URGENCY FOR ASSISTANCE, DESCRIBING IT AS A "NOW" SITUATION. IN RESPONSE TO LUERS' DESCRIPTION OF DIFFICULTIES WITH CONGRESS IN DEVELOPING ENTHUSIASM FOR US SUPPORT, PATTERSON SAID "UNLESS WE CAN DEVISE WAYS OF CUTTING THROUGH THE SYSTEM, YOUR AID MAY COME TOO LATE AND NOT ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE". PATTERSON TOOK TIME OUT OF A CABINET MEETING FOR THIS SESSION AND OBVIOUSLY IS PLACING A HIGH PRIORITY ON THE JOINT US/JAMAICAN TEAM'S STARTING ON A POSITIVE NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. LUERS MADE THREE POINTS:
-- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO SEEK WAYS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA; OUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS WEEKS' USG/ GOJ TEAM TALKS IS PART OF A SERIOUS EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION.
-- ONE SHOULD NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES IN ANY EFFORT TO SUPPORT JAMAICA AT THIS TIME; GETTING
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THE ATTENTION OF MAJOR INSTITUTIONS IS DIFFICULT.
--CRITICAL TO ANY IMPORTANT EFFORT FOR JAMAICA WILL BE THE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS. HOW SHOULD THE US RELATE EFFORTS WE UNDERTAKE WITH THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS?
LUERS ALSO SAID THAT A PRIMARY REASON WHY JAMAICA IS IMPORTANT TO THIS ADMINISTRATION IS THAT JAMAICA IS A

DEMOCRACY AND IS UNDERTAKING PROGRAMS THAT ARE DESIGNED TO HELP ITS CITIZENS.

3. PATTERSON RESPONDED THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "VERY SUCCESSFUL." HE REPEATED WHAT HE TOLD SECRETARY VANCE, I.E., THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT "WISHED TO SECURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US ON A FRIENDLY FOOTING BASED ON HISTORICAL LINKS AND SOME DEGREE OF INTERDEPENDENCE." HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR LUERS' VISIT TO JAMAICA IN CONNECTION WITH THE US/GOJ TEAM TALKS.

4. PATTERSON EXPRESSED HIS AWARENESS OF THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED AND THE LIMITED EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT THE US COULD ACTUALLY DO. BUT HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THIS IS A "NOW SITUATION" MORE URGENT THAN WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT, UNLESS WE CAN DEVISE MEANS OF CUTTING THROUGH THE "SYSTEM" TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE URGENTLY, IT MAY BE TOO LATE AND NOT ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE.

5. ON LUERS' QUESTION REGARDING OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND DONORS, PATTERSON SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF US DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UK AND CANADA. HE SAID JAMAICA WAS STRUCTURING ITS REQUESTS "IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HELP IS NEEDED ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS." LUERS ASKED WHAT ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES WERE INTERESTED. PATTERSON SAID THE GOJ HAD ALREADY TALKED WITH CANADA AND UK, AND THAT THE DUTCH HAD ALREADY BEEN HELPFUL TO SOME DEGREE. A GOJ MISSION WOULD BE GOING TO THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE LATER IN THE YEAR. GOJ

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ALSO INTENDED TO TALK TO THE GERMANS WHO HAD SHOWN SOME INTEREST, AND TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EEC FOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

6. COMMENT: IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH LUERS AND CHARGE, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHN DRINKALL REPORTED A DISCUSSION WITH MANLEY LAST FRIDAY IN WHICH MANLEY OUTLINED THE SOURCES FROM WHICH HE HOPED TO DRAW THE \$200 MILLION DOLLAR PACKAGE. PACKAGE BROKE DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

-- U.S. 50 MILLION DOLLARS
-- IMF 50 MILLION DOLLARS
-- CANADA 25 MILLION DOLLARS
-- HUNGARY 8 MILLION DOLLAR LINE OF CREDIT
--U.S.S.R. 25 MILLION DOLLARS LINE OF CREDIT
(LATER THIS YEAR, APPARENTLY AS AN
ADVANCE CREDIT ON A 1 MILLION TON
PURCHASE OF BAUXITE)

-- BALANCE FROM ASSORTED UNLISTED SOURCES. JAMAICA

BANK GOVERNOR BROWN TOLD LUERS SEPARATELY THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM TRINIDAD WHERE HE HAD SOUGHT ERIC WILLIAMS' AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL HELP (PERHAPS \$50 MILLION). BORNW SAID DEAL STILL HINGED ON JAMAICAN AGREEMENT TO EXPAND IMPORTS FROM T/T, PARTICULARLY CARS. END COMMENT.

7. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, LUERS, AT PATTERSON'S REQUEST, DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA. PATTERSON, ALLUDING TO HIS DEPARTURE LATER THAT DAY, DESCRIBED THE UP-COMING CARICOM MINISTERIAL TALKS IN GEORGETOWN AS "CRUCIAL". HE STATED THAT CARICOM WAS APPROACHING A REAL TEST AS TO WHETHER IT COULD ADJUST TO THE NATIONAL PROBLEMS AND REQUIREMENTS OF ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. TO A QUESTION FROM LUERS, PATTERSON REPLIED THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS TO CARICOM OVER THE SHORT RUN, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT THE NEAR TERM FUTURE OF THE

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CARRIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

8. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO MARCH MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, PATTERSON WAS NOT RETICENT ABOUT GOING TO HEART OF JAMAICA'S DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND THE URGENT NEED FOR US ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, PATTERSON AND OTHER GOJ OFFICIALS HAVE THE SENSE THAT THE US ALONE CANNOT AND WILL NOT BAIL THEM OUT. THEY RECOGNIZE THE NATURE, EXTENT AND URGENCY OF THEIR PROBLEM. THEY ARE SOBER ABOUT THE NEED TO LOWER POPULAR EXPECTATIONS TO CHANGE TASTES FOR IMPORTED GOODS. THE MID-RANGE VIEW FOR JAMAICA IS DISMAL. YET IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOJ BELIEVES THAT SUPPORT NOW IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE AN EASIER TRANSITION FROM THE HIGH LIFE OF THE PAST TO A MORE AUSTERE FUTURE.

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